

DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
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Submitted electronically to:

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Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 1473
Merrifield, VA 22116
Attention: Chemical Right-to-Know Program

RE: Status of Commitment Under U.S. HPV Program - DMSO

This submission is being made on behalf of the Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO) Producers Association regarding DMSO (CAS Number 67-68-5) which is sponsored under the U.S. HPV Challenge Program.

DMSO is used industrially as a reaction solvent, polymerization solvent, in antifreeze, hydraulic fluid, paint and varnish removers, as a pharmaceutical solvent, as an analytical reagent, as a clean-up solvent and in the manufacture of synthetic fibers, industrial cleaners and pesticides. In medicine it is used as a treatment for interstitial cystitis, in the preservation of cells at low temperatures, in the diffusion of drugs into the bloodstream by topical applications, as an anti-inflammatory agent and as an analgesic. It is also used in veterinary medicine. It is used in plant pathology and nutrition. [National Toxicology Program, ntp-db.niehs.nih.gov, and from "The Kirk-Othmer Concise Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology", 4th edition]

DMSO is not a compound for which releases into the environment require reporting under the US-EPA Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). Due to its low vapor pressure, the proportion of releases into air is low. DMSO users often recycle it and thereby limit discharges. DMSO is present in some industrial wastewaters and is readily biodegradable.

DMSO occurs naturally in low levels in many fruits, vegetables, grains and beverages; these include raspberry, corn, oats, coffee, milk and tea. [J.Agric.Food Chem., 29, 1089-1091 (1981).] Consumers may also be exposed to it in the use of pharmaceuticals and other products (See "Uses" above).

The attached IUCLID dossier summarizes the available data for DMSO. The data used to characterize the HPV Challenge endpoints for DMSO were identified either in company proprietary files, the peer-reviewed literature, and/or calculated using widely accepted computer modeling programs.

Based on the available data for DMSO, no testing is proposed under the HPV Challenge Program.

The current members of the Association are: ATOFINA Chemicals, Inc., Gaylord Chemical Corporation and Toray Fine Chemicals Company, Ltd.

If you have questions, please contact me at (703) 669-5688 or via e-mail at ehunt@adelphia.net.

Sincerely,

Submitted electronically

Elizabeth K. Hunt
Executive Director

Cc: Richard Hefter, EPA
Leslie Scott, EPA